

Nevada Early Intervention Summer – Fall Family Newsletter

September-October 2016 Volume 6 No 5

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral...

Nevada's Early Intervention **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)** advises and assists Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Dear Parents/Families, you are invited to attend and participate...

MEETING NOTICE

EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, October 13, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will tentatively be held via Video Conference at the Following Locations:

- **Elko:** Nevada Early Intervention Services
1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Conference Room
- **Las Vegas:** Desert Regional Center
1391 S. Jones Blvd. [ask for directions at the desk]
- **Reno:** Nevada Early Intervention Services
2667 Enterprise, Conference Room

Check for updates. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about meetings or how to submit public comments, please contact me at ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call *Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

*Central Directory of Resources: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

The ICC membership can be viewed at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>, under "Who is on the ICC?", then click on **Current Membership**.



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, contact us!

Please enjoy the stories shared of families who have "been there and done that!" — See pages 2 & 3.

WE DID IT!

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced that the U.S. Department of Education has determined that Nevada meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part C of the IDEA establishes the requirements for the statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities ages birth to three. Brenda Bledsoe, Nevada Part C Coordinator stated, "The determination of meets requirements is the highest of four possible performance levels. This is truly a crowning achievement for Nevada's early intervention system. It is a credit to everyone who works to ensure supports are available to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families." To read the entire press release you can access it on the IDEA Part C Publications page at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Publications/>

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE (FSRS)** that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention. For more information email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call 1-800-522-0066

Been there, done that!

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING is a very intensive and innovative national model of leadership training, designed to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy and to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. For information visit http://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced_pip



Elko NV—Partners in Policymaking Class Session # 3

"I know I can only brush the surface of the topics covered and still not do justice to the information given and the presenters who took the time to speak to us. Know that I am grateful to all who took the time to organize and execute this class for us and that I will be a better parent and advocate for it. I would like to encourage anyone who has a child or works with individuals with disabilities to reach out and take an offered class or go to that support group. It will open up a whole new world. . .

Saturday was a day dedicated to two topics I'm very passionate about, assistive technology (AT) and politics. Assistive technology plays a large role in my life as a parent of a child with multiple disabilities. AT in our world right now is a voice for my daughter to communicate with and light box and large images to help her see. It will be ever changing as she learns new things and grows. Politics have been an interest of mine since my first political science class in college. I don't follow and keep up on the ins and outs of politics as much as I used to, but still find it a very interesting subject.

Assistive technology (AT) was the first topic of the morning and George McKinlay was the presenter. George is the data systems manager for the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities and also a project director for the Nevada Assistive Technology Resources Center (NATRC). He is a technology guru who is passionate about AT and how it can help make the lives of individuals with disabilities easier and more functional. Assistive technology by IDEA definition is any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children (or adults) with disabilities. George and his work through the NATRC help the people of our state meet the many AT needs. He also said that the NATRC is grant funded and is limited to that budget which limits how much he can do. He recommends parents/families and friends starting a "tech talk group". These groups would keep everyone informed and up to date on what is going on in the tech/AT world and what is available and how families are using technology/non technology devices in different ways. AT can be the most low tech of things (a pool noodle) to the top of the line high tech (Speech-generating devices (SGDs)) and everything in between. Seek to find what will work best for your child and family and give it a try. Where there is a will there is a way. (<https://natrc15.wordpress.com/>, email at natrc@me.com, or 775-682-9070)

The afternoon was devoted to state legislation and a visit from State Assemblyman John Ellison. Travis and Diana started the afternoon with a Power Point that went over how a bill becomes a bill, key people in state government, how to navigate the NV state government webpage and testifying for or against a bill. Both Diana and Travis have testified for a bill in front of a legislative committee to help get a bill passed. We also heard from Mary Bryant via phone about her experience with getting Assembly Bill 128 (*Creates a Power of Attorney for health care decision for adults with intellectual disabilities*) passed through legislation. All this information is very pertinent to disability advocacy and a major step in helping make the "world" a better and equal place for people with disabilities.

— continued on the next page —

"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford

The Early Intervention Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (Subject to review & editing.)

— continued from page 2 —

State Assemblyman John Ellison is not only a State Assemblyman but a local businessman right here in our small community of Elko. Mr. Ellison talked to us about how we as the public can access our government bodies. Mr. Ellison or his assistant can be reached at his office, or a message can be left and he will call you back as soon as possible. He talked about some of the bills he has helped pass and others that he has tried to make sure they didn't make it through. He talked briefly on his crazy travel schedule and that we as the public can make our voice heard by simply contacting our government bodies and giving our opinion and feeling. Mr. Ellison, Diana, Travis and Mary all had a similar message that afternoon. The message was when contacting or interacting with local and state government bodies (<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/>) keep calm and lead with your head, know the facts, don't let your emotions lead you, be ready to listen, and be confident, polite and prepared.

Sunday was dedicated to community, advocacy, and working with the media. This day was a day that touched my heart and reinforced my belief to never underestimate or undermine those around us with disabilities. Our first presenter of the morning was Mr. Lenn White. Lenn is a self-advocate who many of us know in our community from our shopping trips or have worked with him as a coworker. I worked with Lenn about 7 or 8 years ago when I was putting myself through college. Lenn, with the help of his sister and mother, talked to us about his past work experience, the help he gets through the Rural Regional Center (RRC), and the Health Insurance for Work Advancement (HIWA) program. Lenn has had his fair share of work experience, some of them good and others not so good. He has to struggle to get a fair job and a fair wage due to his disability. With the support he gets from his family and RRC he is able to advocate for fair treatment and wages. The RRC (http://adsd.nv.gov/Contact/Contact_DevServices/) offers service coordination, supported living arrangements, job and day training, family preservation program, respite, and psychological services to individuals with an intellectual disability and/or related conditions and their families. The Health Insurance for Work Advancement (HIWA) program (<http://dhcfp.nv.gov/Pgms/Home/> and located under programs) is a Medicaid option that allows a person with a disability to work, earn money, and have affordable health insurance coverage. The HIWA program is part of the Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Act.

Diana and Travis rounded out the day with a talk about how to work with the media and ended with a mock legislative session. Not many of us get the chance to work with the media but knowing basics will help. We were given 10 rules for effective media relations. We also learned that the media can work for your cause or against it so don't take it lightly. Media is not just TV, it is social media, blogs, microblogging, social networks, and media sharing. Your feelings and opinions can travel fast and should be given with care and thought.

Our mock legislative session was a fun reminder that it is serious business to be testifying in front of our law makers. Knowing the facts and telling the truth are probably the two most important things to remember, but knowing how the show is run is also important. Knowing the rules and how to address people with titles, when you are allowed to talk, where to sit, and how to dress are all important things to know before you're on the stand. Think and know before you go.

I would like to say another special thank you to all of those involved in making all of these classes possible. I have learned so much and feel like a stronger, more knowledgeable parent." ~ Janina Easley, ICC Parent Representative

"We must speak for our children and build the platform so that they have that stable place to stand when they become old enough to speak for themselves." – Stacey Hughey, Parent

Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative: By Parents, for Parents—It's all about information of Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent Facebook (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, parenting questions, community resources and events, etc. at www.nvparents.com.

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org
- **NEIS-Reno "Trick or Treat Event."** October 26th at NEIS-Reno from 4-6 pm. There will be partners giving resource information, goodies and of course, candy for our little trick or treaters!

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Lending Land—FREE!** Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

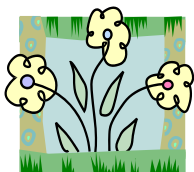
⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

- **9th Annual Step Up for Kids Event at the Springs Preserve**, Monday, September 26th, NEIS will be providing Child Find outreach at this annual, family friendly community event. Food, Entertainment, Games, and more.
- **NEIS Annual Boo Bash**, October 21st, NEIS and community families will join NEIS staff for our annual fall event which will include valuable community resource information and goodies for everyone from our festive Trunk-or-Treat activities.
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com



Nevada's Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

